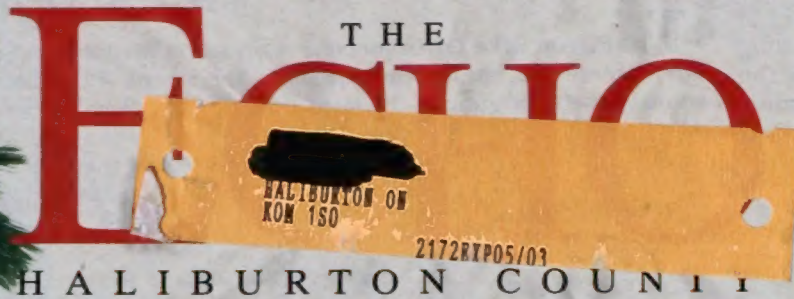


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HALIBURTON COUNTY

Tuesday, September 12, 2000
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MARTHA PERKINS/Echo

Last week at the PineStone, Premier Mike Harris and the entire Tory caucus (except Finance Minister Ernie Eves, who was golfing with Tiger Woods) came to the PineStone to map out the party's future course. Local MPP Chris Hodgson, chair of the province's management board, discusses some of those issues with the Premier after Thursday's press conference.

Healthcare is top priority, Tory caucus says after retreat in Haliburton

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Healthcare is biggest issue facing Ontario today, says Premier Mike Harris who promises to "hold all federal politicians to the fire" to restore federal funding to its past levels.

"When I go to Ottawa I'll be fighting for healthcare," Harris said at a press conference at the PineStone last Thursday after a two-day caucus retreat at the Haliburton resort wrapped up.

Harris says the federal government needs to give Ontario an extra \$8-billion a year to bring funding back to the level it was before federal cutbacks. "It's imperative the federal government join us."

Not only is the province's population growing, but it's also aging, putting more strains on healthcare, Harris said.

The caucus made it clear that healthcare was a leading priority, but Tory MPPs also stressed the need to ensure healthcare funding was being spent wisely.

"We plan to account for how each healthcare dollar is spent," Harris said in his prepared speech.

Meanwhile, the retreat in Haliburton provided the Tory MPPs a chance to review the effectiveness of past policies and plan new ones for the future.

Harris says he emerged from discussions "re-invigorated with enthusiasm" and joins the caucus in looking forward drafting a policy report that's "a vision for all of Ontario".

He said the Tories will be taking a more pragmatic approach, which is much easier now that the province's finances have been turned around.

The issue is how best to deliver services, not who delivers them, he said. "Who in Haliburton can provide this ser-

See Harris page 5

Silver Beach debate tarnishes public access

ERIK MARTENSSON
Staff Reporter

More than 20 years after it began, a fight over a little sliver of sand-covered land on North Kashagawigamog Road still continues.

The owners of Silver Beach Camping Park and the municipality of Dysart et al still can't agree on what needs to be done with the small patch of earth called Silver Beach.

"I've been in politics for a long time and it's one of the worst messes I've seen," says Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey.

The dispute over ownership of the modest beach in front of the trailer park began in the '70s and resurfaced in the '80s, going as far as the Supreme Court of Ontario. Barbara and Mervyn Reeves, the owners of Silver Beach Camping Park, won the case and own the middle section of the beach out to the high water mark.

The Reeves say problems at the beach

started yet again about four years ago when the municipality put up a public beach sign. Since he was concerned about liability if the public used his section of the beach, Reeves says he was forced to erect a large fence around his middle section of the beach.

"It's an eyesore down there," says Mrs. Reeves of the cage she calls "the spite

fence".

The Reeves say the erection of the public beach sign was done on purpose since they are currently involved in a different court case with the municipality.

"It's strictly harassment. They don't have enough property to have a proper

See Dysart page 12

Re-zoning allows for IGA expansion

ERIK MARTENSSON
Staff Reporter

The proposed development of a new IGA supermarket more than twice the size of the current IGA has passed the first step on the road to becoming a reality in the town of Haliburton.

The municipality of Dysart et al passed a bylaw on Monday rezoning the lands of Oshawa Property Holdings, Dawson and Gervais which lie between

Highland, Maple and Mountain Streets from a residential to a general commercial zone.

While the official site plan has not been finalised and will need several changes before it is approved, the current proposal shows that the store's size would be 25,096 square feet and would require 115 parking spaces. The size of the existing IGA store is 11,536 square feet.

See Neighbours page 17

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Singing priest returns to Haliburton

A PERFORMANCE FEATURING the music of Rev. Mark Curtis, known as "Canada's Singing Priest," takes place Sunday, Sept. 24 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The Kennis Lake cottager will be introducing his new recording, *The Bridge to Us* All, featuring 14 new "soft, soulful love ballads and upbeat, contemporary, inspirational music." The music "celebrates the gift of life from a man whose voice will change many hearts." Tickets are \$10 each and are available at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton, 457-2074.

here, there & everywhere
news and events worth noting

The Peterborough AIDS Resource Network invites people to walk, run, bicycle stroll or dance in the Sept. 24 AIDS Walk in Peterborough. Participants can choose a 2K or 5K walk through downtown Peterborough and the Rotary Trail. Funds raised will be used only in the counties of Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Haliburton. Call 1-800-361-2895 or e-mail aidswalkptbo@yahoo.com for details.

Muskoka's Studio Tour returns September 23 and 24 as 23 artisans open their doors from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For a map, visit www.muskoka.com/tour or call Linda Wright, 705-769-2352.

The Pigeon Lake Environmental Association invites other interested environmentalists to their Sept. 19 annual general meeting in Omemee with guest speakers Albert Marinelli of the Kawartha Fisheries Association and Linda Trott, who will speak on the effect of the rainforests on our forests. Call 705-799-5537 for details.

Tiny Talent Time may ring no bells with kids, but it should with their parents, or anyone who watched the show from 1956 to 1993. Now called Today's Talent Time, or T3, it needs children to profile. If you're interested, there's a \$20 audition fee which will be donated to (and payable directly to) the Starlight Children's Foundation. To have the show consider your child, send a cheque and a video of their performance, not longer than three minutes, to Kelly Clements, Max Media Productions, 1365 Yonge Street, Suite 200, Toronto, Ont., M4T 2P7. For more information, e-mail maxmedia@maxmediacanada.com. Tapes will not be returned.

The Korean Challenge is an essay contest for Ontario high school students who can win one of 32 prizes, including a one-week trip to Korea. Students in Grades 9 to OAC are invited to submit a three to six page essay on an aspect of Korea. The contest is to encourage students to expand, through self-study and research, of some aspect of Korea. The deadline is Nov. 11. For details, visit www.emb-korea.ottawa.on.ca/right/culture or phone 613-244-5044.

Schools join efforts to fund cancer research

Students and staff from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and J Douglas Hodgson Elementary School will be participating in the 20th annual run on Friday, September 15 at 10:45 in the morning. The course goes around Head Lake on a 5.4 km loop to raise money to find a cure for cancer.



The late Terry Fox

Last year, 205 students ran and walked to raise over \$5,700, every penny of which goes to cancer research. Organizers of this year's event hope for even more contributions, this being the 20th anniversary of Terry's Marathon of Hope. Contact Bruce Griffith, 457-2950.

Terry had to stop his Marathon of Hope just outside Thunder Bay after cancer returned to infect his lungs, these were his words after realizing that his run across Canada was over: "I don't feel that this is unfair; that's the thing about cancer," he said. "I'm not the only one. It happens all the time to other people. I'm not special. This just intensifies what I did - it gives it more meaning. It will inspire more people. I just wish people would realize that anything's possible if they try, that dreams are made if people try."

For details on the local Terry Fox Runs this Sunday call Andy Salvatori (Haliburton) at 457-2100 or Jerry Grozelle (Minden), 286-1288.



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Couple is \$22,000 short of attaining true independence

■ *Gord and Sue Hamilton need elevator to access their basement*

ERIK MARTENSSON

Staff Reporter

One more piece of the puzzle is all that's needed to make life easier and almost perfect for a brave Minden couple.

Gord and Sue Hamilton are both physically disabled. Gord has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair while Sue has scoliosis and gets around with a rollator walker. Because of their disabilities, the Hamiltons cannot use the stairs to get down to their own basement. They are in need of a costly customized elevator that would give them access to the lower level of their Prince Street home.

The Hamiltons and their dog Mikey share the bright bungalow which the couple bought last July. Previously the Hamiltons rented a winterized cottage at Paradise Lake near Haliburton but in the wintertime it became too difficult for them to get in and out so they moved to the Minden area.

The first house they rented just off Highway 35 was wheelchair accessible but the couple had to move closer to downtown when a serious car accident forced Sue to give up driving. She says since it was too difficult to walk all the way into town and the taxi rides became too expensive, the difficult decision to make the move downtown had to be made.

But both are very happy with their choice.

"Where we are now we can walk into town and do just about anything," says Sue.

Since the house is more than 40 years old (Gord understands that it was once used as a church), it needed some large renovations in order to make life simpler for the Hamiltons. The couple applied to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to help with the burden of the expensive renovations.

"Before we even bought the house we phoned the CMHC and at the time they did say we qualified," says Gord.

But after the Hamiltons made the move, the CMHC suddenly said there was no money available for small towns.

"Then they started to give us the runaround," says Gord. "But we didn't go away. I don't give up easy."

Luckily the Hamiltons received help from friends such

as Minden lawyer Carolynn Coburn who sent emails and made phone calls to MPP Chris Hodgson and MP John O'Reilly.

"We didn't say we wanted special privileges," says Sue. "We just wanted to know why we didn't qualify."

It seems the questions helped as the funding finally came through.

"All the sudden it was there," says Gord.

With the money, the Hamiltons were able to get the renovations they needed.

The biggest expense was the wheelchair ramp that they had to put in. Gord jokes that it cost them \$4,000 just to get into the house.

The Hamiltons also had to replace the windows in the old house. Sue tells the story of the time when she got her hands stuck opening a window. Because of his disability Gord was unable to help Sue and was forced to seek help across the street at the public water fountain at the Minden Fire Station. He was able to find a couple to help Sue out of her predicament but the incident convinced the Hamiltons to quickly replace the windows.

As well, with the funding the Hamiltons were able to put in a new floor, lower the kitchen counters and install accessible shelving.

But perhaps the most important renovation was the bathroom.

"We now have a big beautiful new bathroom where Gord can wheel himself in for showers," says Sue, noting that Gord was often injuring himself due to the cramped space of the old bathroom. "It was the size of a telephone booth."

The couple says the renovations have done more than just make the house livable.

"It's made our life a lot easier," says Sue. "It's also helped us regain more and more of our independence which is what we want."

Gord says the elevator would add to that and mean that the couple wouldn't need outside help as often. Currently the couple is dependent on the Red Cross homemakers who come in about four times a week. The



Keeping their independence is vital to Minden residents Gord and Sue Hamilton, who need help acquiring the \$22,000 they need for an elevator to make their basement accessible.

couple believe that with an elevator in place they would not need help nearly as much as it would provide them with access to do their own laundry and get to their storage space.

As well it would give them easier access to the house through the back door where the wheelchair ramp that is already in place is not as steep

“We didn't say we wanted special privileges. We just wanted to know why we didn't qualify (for Canadian Mortgage and Housing funding)”

SUE HAMILTON

as the one they currently have to use at the front of the house.

Gord says it would also be nice for him to be able to go down to a basement that he has never even seen. Sue jokes that they've been considering putting him on a magic carpet and letting him slide down the stairs for a look.

Sue says access to the basement becomes even more important in the wintertime since they don't get out as much.

"It would give us extra space. We could each do our own thing."

"When I have the guys over we could go downstairs," says Gord. "It would help to keep

the upstairs clean."

The couple both laugh when the suggestion is made that it would also give them some needed time apart.

The special elevator will have to be custom made and have controls that Gord will be able to manipulate with his feet, but the couple already have Minden contractor Daryl Moore in place to install the system.

"The reason we picked him is because he's the one that really listened to us and what we wanted," says Sue. "All we have to do is get the go ahead and then it will be done."

By the "go ahead" Sue means the funding to pay for the expensive elevator. It's very expensive, with a price tag of around \$22,000.

"Everything we had done here went over \$20,000 without the elevator," says Gord of the previous renovations which the CMHC mainly provided for.

The couple are both on a government disability pension and are again looking to the CMHC to help them pay for the elevator.

Previously the Hamiltons also approached the March of Dimes organisation, which has home modification funding available, but they were told that they didn't qualify since at the time

Sue did have some access to the basement. (When the couple first moved into the house she was able to gingerly make it up and down the stairs. But after serious injuries to her leg tendons, her doctor has advised her against making the painful trip.)

The couple is therefore applying to the March of Dimes again since the situation has changed.

"We phoned them last week to send the paperwork over. This time I hope they come through."

The CMHC has said that they may be able to assist with half of the funding providing it is still available and the March of Dimes provides the other half.

"If all else fails, we have sent letters to service clubs," says Sue.

So far the couple has received \$2,000 in a trust fund from the Minden Lion's Club.

The couple has also emailed some companies describing their situation and asking for help.

Gord says to let him know if anybody has any other fundraising ideas.

The Hamiltons note that the elevator is not a luxury item for the couple, but a necessity. It would make their lives easier, safer and freer.

They just want to put the last piece of the puzzle in place.

The Lions Club trust account at the TD Bank in Minden is open for contributions and the Hamiltons can be contacted at 286-3823.

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Local access centre gets \$1.5- million funding infusion

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

Faster than the Minister of Health could announce a cash infusion of \$1.5-million for the Haliburton, Northumberland, Victoria Long-term Care Access Centre, the money was already being spent by the agency.

The new funding will be used to help pay down the agency's \$2.1-million operating deficit, CEO John Hassan said in a media scrum shortly after Elizabeth Witmer's announcement at the Haliburton access centre office on Wednesday.

"It will help us with our operating deficit," said Hassan, who didn't think new services could be offered with the extra funding, which will become part of the annual budget.

However, he did stress he was pleased with the current level of service this agency is able to provide.

"We have no waiting lists and we're providing comfortable levels of service so we're fortunate in that way," he said. "I have no concerns about (the level of home care offered.) We're doing an excellent job."

The cost of this level of service, however, is an annual deficit, which the Ministry of Health usually picks up.

Access centres always wish they could have more money because more care is always desired, Hassan said, responding to media questions. It's a question of balancing demand and available dollars, he said, wishing that the Ministry provided the access centre with an annualized budget instead of year-by-year funding



MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO

As the media videoed her presentation and MPP Chris Hodgson looked on, Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer announced an additional \$92-million in funding for access centres and home-help agencies last Wednesday at the Haliburton access centre.

announcements.

Witmer said healthcare funding will continue to be a major issue for the government, particularly as the Baby Boomers age and require more health services.

At present, seniors are 12% of the population but they account for 50% of healthcare spending, she said, adding that Ontario's population is expected to increase to 12 million by 2005.

Witmer's announcement on Wednesday provided \$70.1-million in new funding to access centres and \$22.4-million for other home-help agencies, such as Haliburton County Home Support Services, across the province. (Care agencies in the riding will receive \$400,000 "to strengthen the delivery of long-term care community services.")

Access centres are "one-stop shopping" for people who need healthcare help in their homes, perhaps as they recover from injury or illness.

Wednesday's announcement brings funding for access centres to \$1.1-billion, up \$437-million from 1995.

Witmer said the money can be used to expand services to hire more community care nurses, homemaking staff, personal support and therapy workers.

"We want to make sure people of all ages have the services that are necessary," she said in her speech in the crowded Haliburton board room. "I'm confident we can meet the needs of our people."

Television, radio and print media – in Haliburton to cover the Tory caucus retreat at the PineStone – peppered the minister with questions about the announcement in particular and healthcare issues in general.

Could the money be used by access centres to address nurses' wage disparity concerns, CBC radio asked. (Home care nurses generally earn 15% less than hospital nurses.)

"The money can be used by access centres as they see fit," Witmer responded. "They're responsible for their budgets but we do have a committee looking at the whole issue based on wage disparity."

When that committee makes its recommendations, she said, there will be future announcements.

The ministry is also reviewing the entire access centre program structure because "we're at a point where there are issues and concerns."

The media asked about concerns that with the present tendering process, by which access centres ask service agencies such as VON and the Red Cross to bid on providing services, nurses' wages are being driven down, and therefore nurses are being driven out of the field.

The request for proposal system (RFP) is one of the issues included in the review on access centres, the first since they were initiated five years ago, Witmer said. "We need to make sure RFP ensures the best quality care is provided and the best number of hours (of care)."

She hoped the wage disparity issue would soon be addressed. She added that the ministry has been providing funding to the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario to try to find solutions to the nursing shortage in Ontario.

As well, "what we're encouraging hospitals to do is ensure nursing jobs are permanent jobs. Part of the problem is the 'casualization' of nursing", whereby hospitals don't guarantee full-time or part-time work. She hopes that by stabilizing the hiring practices, "nurses will have the benefits they're entitled to and also their security."

Asked if healthcare funding "will ever be enough," Witmer said "that's a fair question."

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Harris vows to lead Tories as party takes "pragmatic" approach to future policies

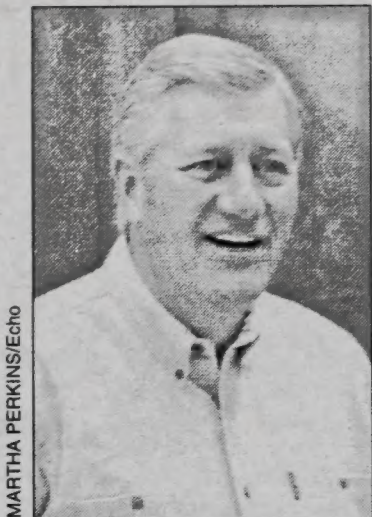
from page 1

vice at the best price," he asked, adding that it was important that the same level of services be available, as much as possible, across the province.

Asked about the uncertainty of funding for Haliburton Highlands Health Services, which makes it difficult to plan from year to year, Harris smiled and said "your local member constantly points out how you need more or better services."

There's "no question" some areas of the province, including his North Bay riding, have historically been able to afford fewer services. While this inequity can't be totally eliminated, "as we get more dollars we'll try to equalize it as much as possible."

In a tourist area such as Haliburton, local businesses have had difficulty in hiring enough staff this summer. Asked if the government had any plans to ensure that as the economy grows there will be a suitably trained workforce, Harris said that they are looking at areas of enhancing training. Community colleges have



MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO
Premier Mike Harris held a media scrum at the PineStone.

the best resources to deal with training needs, but he said the government is also looking at new training opportunities in the private sector.

He added that the competition for staff will automatically increase wages, responding obliquely to demands that the minimum wage be increased. "The marketplace will deal with minimum wage."

As to students graduating with high debt loads because of

tuition increases, Harris said that might be the story told by some student unions, but the students he talks with say their debt burden is not onerous. "The vast majority tell me they don't have student loans."

And although tuition has gone up, so too has the amount students can earn upon graduation, he said. In proportion to earning capabilities, "I don't think student debt is growing substantially."

Harris was asked if the retreat was also a time for him to reassert his leadership amid speculation that fellow Tories were wanting to take his place as leader of the Progressive Conservatives in the next election.

"I'm running in the next election and I'm running as leader of the PC party," he said, adding that he was glad there were people in the caucus "who aspire to leadership roles."

When he does retire, he said, he wants a "logical, orderly transition and you do that by giving people positions of responsibility and let them show what they're capable of."

Tory caucus retreat is a first for the Highlands

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

The provincial Tory caucus retreat at the PineStone last week is the first time such an event has been held in the Highlands, says the man who convinced his colleagues to discover his neighbourhood.

"They love it," MPP Chris Hodgson said of the reaction of the 57 MPPs and staff, who spent Tuesday and Wednesday night at the Haliburton resort.

Not only is there the immediate economic spin-off from having so many people – plus a large contingent of media personnel – stay at the resort, but Hodgson said it was also important to provide the opportunity to have people discover this part of the province. Some were hoping to extend their visit into the weekend.

At a press conference at the access centre on Wednesday, Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer said although Parry Sound has long been a favourite of hers, she had to

concede "this is a little bit of God's country. There are a few touristy things I wouldn't mind doing."

However, the meeting schedule didn't allow for two much sightseeing.

The caucus was in Haliburton to express concerns about the present and plan for the future. The only politician not to attend was Finance Minister Ernie Eves, who had a golfing date with Tiger Woods.

"We must continue looking at new ideas and working

to develop a thoughtful and comprehensive plan that will keep Ontario healthy and prosperous well into the future," Premier Mike Harris said in a press release.

Perhaps Witmer will give herself the opportunity to do a few of the "touristy things" she missed this time around when she returns to the Highlands on September 29 to cut the ribbon on the new healthcare facilities in Minden and Haliburton. Witmer was present at the sod-turning at the sites three years ago as one of her first official duties as Minister of Health.



Chris Hodgson

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Traffic is disrupted in Haliburton as improvements to Hwy 118 get underway

The reconstruction of Highway 118 (Maple Avenue) in the village of Haliburton commenced on Wednesday, September 6.

Major work will be undertaken in the area between York Street and Victoria Street. This work comprises road excavation, removal and replacement of storm sewers, removal and replacement of curbs and sidewalks.

There will be one major excavation on the road near the Sir Sandford Fleming College site.

After completion of the major work, which will take approximately four weeks, the entire area from Sir Sandford Fleming to Highland Street will be resurfaced.

The completion date for this work is expected to be October 20, 2000.

While there will be disruptions for local access at certain times, the contractor is required to keep them to a minimum.

The contractor will have the road open every evening and weekends.

Should you require clarification or have any other concerns, please contact the Township of Dysart at 705-457-1740 and leave a message for John Matthews.



MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO

Starting at the corner of York and Maple in Haliburton, construction crews have begun improvements that will stretch from the main street to Sir Sandford Fleming College. Here they work on improving the drainage. All the work is expected to be completed by October 20.

Resolving pension mix-up becomes a lesson in frustration

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

A 68-year-old Haliburton woman has found herself caught in a bureaucratic maze after her seniors benefits were garnished for a B.C. man's child support payments.

A simple clerical error apparently first led to the mistake, which she noticed in mid-July. Her Old Age Security and Canadian Pension Plan cheques were lower than usual and after several phone calls, she was told that she had been mistaken for a man in British Columbia. The money was supposed to be drawn from his government cheque to pay for child support.

Finding the cause of the mistake was

the easiest part. Getting the money that had been erroneously taken from her – more than \$500 – has proven to be far more difficult.

"I have never had so many doors shut in my face," says the woman. "It's ludicrous."

"This government is obtuse and dysfunctional."

She has talked to several people in several different departments, all of whom have given her different answers. Many of the calls were long distance because the government office didn't have a toll-free number. And with the toll-free numbers, she couldn't control who she was talking to so she'd end up having to explain her story all over again.

"You just get passed off and passed off until it tracks back to the justice department," she says, noting "it didn't take them a bat of an eye to take this money away."

She says she's received no help from either MP John O'Reilly or MPP Chris Hodgson, whose offices she's phoned

and e-mailed.

The government was able to move fast enough to ensure the deductions stopped in time for the August cheques, but she still hasn't received compensation for the deductions made in June and July.

On August 25, one office told her her cheque was in the mail and would get here within two weeks. On August 28, another ministry told her that what she had been told on the 25th was wrong; the cheque would take 15 business days.

"The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing and they can't direct you to someone who can help," she says in frustration. "Your knuckles get sore from knocking on doors."

Besides, she says, the mistake was the government's, not hers, and now she's worried that they'll send the cheque to the man in British Columbia whose wages were garnished.

"Why do I have to put myself out and keep them on their toes to get my money back?"

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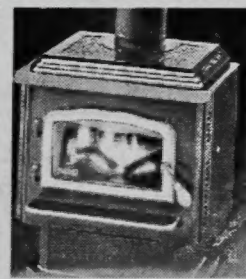
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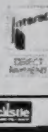
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Electricity wholesalers begin making the rounds in Haliburton

ERIK MARTENSSON

Staff Reporter

While the deregulation of the electricity industry may have ended the old monopoly for the retailing of electricity in Ontario, the provincial government and Hydro One are advising consumers to be careful consumers.

Deregulation will allow companies that want to offer a competing price for electricity to buy electricity in bulk and re-sell it. They will not, however, own, manage or maintain the lines that bring power to the consumer, as that remains in the hands of Hydro One Networks.

These companies, which may refer to themselves as marketers, brokers or suppliers, are already being licensed through the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), which will regulate both natural gas and electricity matters in Ontario, and can solicit and sign people to contracts to sell electricity. Signed contracts will take effect when the market officially opens up in November of 2000.

One such energy retailer, Direct Energy Marketing Limited, was in Haliburton County recently going door to door looking for customers. They are a legitimate wholesaler of electricity in Ontario and do have a valid OEB licence number.

Although retailers must abide by a strict code of conduct, their products, services and prices are not regulated by the OEB. Both the Ontario Government and Hydro One have sent electricity users 'consumer protection' information over the last few months, as consumers should understand how to protect themselves.

Hydro One Spokesperson Kathy Kiska says it is important that consumers ask the retailer some impor-

tant questions before they consider switching.

"We have been advising our customers to ask retailers if they have a licence from the OEB and to provide proof. And if a contract must be signed, the duration of the contract."

Hydro One also advises consumers to ask if a fee will have to be paid to switch and what the price of electricity being offered will be.

As well, the province is advising consumers ask about price changes and billing systems.

Hydro One will still own and maintain Ontario's transmission system and their local distribution wires, but Kiska says retailers are misleading you if they say they are in partnership with Hydro One.

"No retailer should be identifying themselves as Hydro One or saying that they are affiliated with Hydro One."

The company also advises that all contracts should be read before they are signed and not to give anyone your Hydro One Networks account number unless you are intending to contract with them to sell you electricity. Kiska notes that consumers should be aware that any contract they agree to will be a legally binding agreement.

For information on electricity deregulation call the Ontario Energy Board at 1-888-632-6273 or visit their web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca

Volunteers sought to help with housing project in Guatemala

Volunteers are needed to help the Rotary Club of Huntsville, in co-operation with the Rotary Clubs of Haliburton, Parry Sound, Guatemala Metropoli and Missionary Ventures Canada construct 30 low-cost homes for some of the villagers in Pinalito, a remote mountain village in Guatemala.

The average annual income for most Pinalito families is the equivalent of \$200 US. The better off families live in an adobe house with dirt floors and bare walls. The rest live in houses constructed by using bamboo poles, sticks and boards standing on end plus a tin roof. The gaps between the sticks are closed with whatever materials they can find - grass, banana palm leaves and plastic garbage bags, etc. The floor is dirt. They cook over an open wood fire in one corner of their house. Parasites and respiratory disease constitute major health problems.

Rotary is providing the funds for the project and, in conjunction with Missionary Ventures Canada, organizing a construction team of up to 25 male and female volunteers to go in February, 2001 to help build the homes. Each volunteer will donate enough to cover their costs and Missionary Ventures will then provide airfare, plus ground transportation, accommodation and meals in Guatemala. Faith-in-Action will host the team in the mountains and oversee the initial stages of the construction.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Rotarian Brian Menton at 447-9961.

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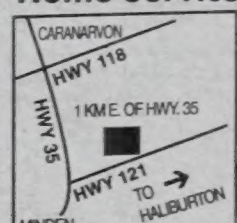
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Life in the scrum

It was fascinating to be an outsider at the media scrums with Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer and Premier Mike Harris, who along with the rest of the Tory caucus, were in Haliburton last week for a retreat.

First there's the buzz at the event when the urban media (The Echo and Times being old hat) begins to arrive: CTV, CBC, Global, VR, TV Ontario, all in their brightly coloured vans. The print and radio journalists are more nondescript but no less recognizable as media types. Although the reporters all compete for stories, they spend a lot of time together so they gather in friendly groups (never exposing their backs to one another, of course.)

In the room where "the event" occurs, there is a always strategically-placed blue backdrop. It sets the stage for the Minister of Health's arrival. She's accompanied by handlers, people who make sure she's at the right place at the right time with the right speech. Whether intentional or not, the Minister's staff create an invisible wall between the Minister and the press. Us versus them.

echo

editorial

martha perkins

Witmer is a very poised woman who doesn't seem to have the arrogance that can accompany such a strong, secure personality. Her demeanour is warm, even when barraged by questions. She handles herself well.

When it's the Premier's turn the next day, the speech is given and the questions come. Obviously, in a speech politicians will always throw the best light on the topic at hand, so it's important that the media provide a counterbalance and make politicians accountable. But the questioning seems to go beyond that. Most of the questions reflect the reporter's agenda. Yet if it's a right-wing news outlet asking the question, the politician knows the left-wing reporter is also noting his or her response. The politician must also be polite to a reporter who has slayed them in the past. The bantering is friendly in tone but sometimes nasty in spirit. One reporter, having asked the Premier what he thinks the chances of being re-elected are, caps the Premier's answer with one of his own retorts: "Five bucks says you'll lose." Impartiality of the press?

Harris is warm, but in a detached, studied sort of way; his smile doesn't reach his tired eyes.

No matter what you think about the politicians' politics, it soon becomes apparent that it's the media's job to wipe away any vestige of humanity from them as people. Politicians are pestered, sometimes swarmed in a sea of microphones, in a way that's designed to make them feel uncomfortable. If they're uncomfortable, they might slip up. If they're uncomfortable for a long time, they might get angry, and the anger will get into their voices. It's those news clips that are used, making the politicians seem abrasive, angry, unsympathetic, even though those sentiments are really directed at the reporters, not the subject at hand. It's little wonder that politicians become very wary about what they say in public.

A scrum is a battle between two power groups who dislike each other but depend on each other. Governments can make all the laws they want, but they have absolutely no control over how their decisions are reflected in the media. Reporters have the power to shape opinion, but they can't impose their view of the world - they can deliver the Sermon on the Mount but they can't etch the 10 Commandments in stone. Covetous of each other's power, the thin veneer of politeness masks a real antagonism that seems to be entirely counterproductive.

The day after the scrum with the Premier, the Globe's headline was "Tories will be more pragmatic, Harris vows," accompanied by a story that began "Ontario's Progressive Conservative government has made a sharp turn to the centre of the political spectrum..." The Star's headline was "Harris ready to lead Tories in next election" and halfway into the story, it reads "Harris surprised many attending the press conference when he said his government has become more pragmatic." The Echo's story focuses more on the fact that as a result of the retreat, MPPs have decided healthcare is the top issue.

Same press conference, same quotes and three entirely different slants on what was said. Oh reader, beware.



Signs of Autumn

by Len Pizze/Echo

Conservation and the Married Man

Recently, at the Hunting and Outdoors Show in Toronto, I was reminded of the myriad of hunter-driven conservation groups. There are all kinds, from the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) to Ducks Unlimited (DU) to Pheasants Forever (PF) to our own Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA). If it can be conserved, hunters will happily line up behind the cause. It's a tradition that serves all of us magnificently.

But there's a little-known group that does more than all others put together. Generally, they are known as the Wives of Outdoors Enthusiasts (WOE) and they are as effective as any group going.

Take, for example, my friend Ray. His new wife Sophie is certainly conservation-minded. Their honeymoon, which is happening even as we speak, will prevent Ray from attending the opener of goose, duck, grouse, rabbit, squirrel, woodcock, and bear. Ray is a decent hunter, so Sophie has conserved quite a few animals for the children that they are quite possibly in the process of producing. In fact, I expect her to receive some sort of special conservation award this year. The funny thing is that Ray went almost 30 years before he knew about WOE.

Not me. I have now been associated with two WOE chapters. The last one dissolved after 12 years of hard work on her part. And the amount of fish and game she saved was truly amazing. Often, she suggested that entire hunting seasons be dismissed in the name of conservation. Sometimes, while swinging a rolling pin, she'd suggest that my health and safety were also in mind. The fact that I ignored these ambitious initiatives may have led to me being drummed out of that particular chapter.

My new chapter is much easier to live with. While groups like DU and the RGS have elaborate annual dinners to raise funds and awareness, the hard-working members of WOE oversee smaller functions every evening at about six. Here conservation issues are discussed at length.

"Pudding Cup, I think I'd like to go hunting this Saturday," the associate member is bound to say.

A quick and lively discussion usually follows, often ending with a list of long-ignored habitat improvement projects pinned to the hunters' forehead where he can see them. While the wailing and gnashing of teeth is not a pretty sight, especially when emanating from a grown man, more animals are saved. This happens all across the country.

Naturally a conservation organization wouldn't be worthy of the name if they didn't do any habitat improvement. Most WOE chapters I know of are constantly directing associate members in improving local habitat. These yard work projects, fence and house painting, and other things are indirectly designed to make life easier on huntable species. Few people know that the rake and lawn mower are important conservation tools.

The incredible thing about this organization is that there is very little in the way of annual meetings, newsletters, or formal discussion. In fact, the term "overhead" better refers to WOE's symbol, the cast iron frying pan, than to the money involved in keeping the movement alive.

Instead of wasting habitat funds on the renting of halls, the membership of WOE often congregates in washrooms at dances and other functions that their husbands take them to in hopes of softening their stance before hunting season. This also answers the question that non-hunting men have been asking forever: Why do women always go to the washroom in groups? It's for membership meetings.

The question then is how does a person gain membership? The words "I do" will entitle the bride full membership and the groom associate status.

After that, a married hunter can hold his head up high and honestly say, "WOE is me."

the not so great



steve galea

outdoorsman

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Furnishing a life

YOU ARE NOT GOING to keep that old thing, are you?" It was more a statement than a question. Matt was getting ready to move, sorting out what came with him and what he would discard on the heap of no-longer-wanted. He was trading in his roomy home sprawled along the lake to a smaller, more practical residence closer to his business. It was called downsizing. Larger became smaller. Furniture would change hands; ads placed in the paper; yard sale signs painted and posted.

The "old thing" in question was a somewhat scratched table of dubious finish that reminded Matt of childhood weekends at his great aunt's farm. The mere sight of that old table could bring a flood of nostalgic recollections that left Matt feeling calm and loved. He planned to keep it forever. In fact, he had wondered if it

could be made into a headstone, when that final home for his bones came to pass.

The person posing the question of whether he planned to keep the old thing, was a good-natured friend who had volunteered to help Matt pack for his move into town. Matt had long ago learned that a friend could have a different view of the world and still be a buddy, a pal. There was that difference between a friend and a soul mate, a true intimate. Only a special person would understand how Matt felt about his



sharon
lynch

down
our
road

great aunt's table, among other things. For Matt, not all furniture and such trappings of home, were the same. For example, the easel from his father's art studio was on a different footing from the VCR. The computer could not be compared to his grandmother's family tree. And the photo of his daughter's first step could not be bought for silver or gold.

It was strange how, over the years, some things had become more important to him while others less so. He would never have thought certain expensive trappings, once so proudly accumulated, would now be set aside for items that held a deeper, richer meaning. There was a need in Matt to hold on to particular pieces of his life through objects of special significance. It was like having secret, hidden treasures that only he could pick up and hold in his hand. To others, these treasure could mean little, or nothing. But for Matt, they have his life texture and satisfaction.

As Matt explained to his friend that the table was indeed staying, he poured both of them a coffee and stated it was time for a break. The two men walked outside and sat down on Matt's deck to enjoy the early fall sunshine. The lake was quieter this weekend, summer cottagers having left, leaving the waters mainly to the loons and ducks. Matt looked over and spied a duck family skimming past his dock in a ragged formation.

If only the dock was as easy to take with him as the old table, he thought. On this dock he had stretched out and let the lake's waves rock him in the sun. He remembered pushing off from those same boards, hurling his body through the air and into the cold surprise of an early spring's swim. His son's first bass had been caught from that dock and many a moonlit lake had been viewed from its smoothly worn surface.

Now, Matt was preparing to say goodbye to the dock and all the other bits and pieces of his life that would not be accompanying him on the next stage of his journey. Only he could decide what to take and what to leave behind. Of course, the dock, like any other part of what he had lived, would never be left entirely behind. He could conjure it any time he felt the need. All he had to do was remember.

The Lilac and the Rose

by EV STATA

as printed in "Reflections of Moonlight", an Anthology of Canadian Verse. Winner of an Award of Excellence.

There's a lilac/rose bush in the park where I run
Two bushes growing just like one,
Their branches entwine like lovers' arms
Ensuring the other comes into no harm.
The lilac's the first to bud in the sun
Showing a promise of beauty to come
Then bestows on us its lovely scent
You can't help but think it's heaven-sent.
But the moment the lilac seems to fade
Then bursts the rose-bush from its shade;
Out-doing its neighbour with its fragrant bloom
While the lilac leans back and gives it room.
Now who would think that two such trees
Could live together in such close harmony
Proving to us all it can be done
With co-operation freedom can be won!
Too bad we don't live like these friends
Embracing our neighbours, world without end;
Giving them space, whatever they need
Without malice, or envy, or hate, or greed.
Yes, if we could live like the lilac and rose
Showing good-will, no matter our woes,
We could spread a fragrance o'er all the earth
And no one would ever regret our birth.



pic of the past

Tom Hodgson explores the history of this week's Pic of the Past.

This building on Haliburton's main street had an interesting history. The site today has become the IGA parking lot, next to valu-mart. For years it was a favourite meeting place and each new proprietor changed its name; for example, Frank's Cafe and Hotel, Bert Mallard Hotel, and Fetterley's Boarding House. This very early photo before additions were added shows it was the Belgium Inn.

In the late 1930s, Tom Carnochan moved his barber shop from across the street and remained there until 1965 when ill health forced Tom to retire. For a very brief time a milk store was located here before the building was torn down.

Our thanks to Shirley Cummings of Haliburton Lake for providing the photo.

letters to the editor

Stressful times, painful decisions

To the Editor:

This evening the high school staff met to discuss the issue of volunteering for extracurricular activities, as we cope with Bill 74 which increased the workload of each teacher. The only consensus we reached is that these are extremely difficult individual decisions. I'd like the people of the county to know about some of the different stands teachers are taking.

For all of us, there is no doubt of the value of extracurricular activities, from the scholarship fund and student council to drama, music and athletics. The students and the teachers benefit from the time spent on these activities in countless ways. Many of us believe that these activities are more important and memorable than regular classes, to the students who participate in them. However, by increasing the number of regular classes that each teacher teaches, the government has shown that its priority is time spent in the classroom.

Here are some of the positions that were expressed at our meeting.

Teacher A believes firmly in the importance of sports, but is concerned that he won't have enough time to do a good job in his classes, spend time with his kids, and still put in the hours that he has put into coaching in the past. Teacher A will probably lead some after school activities in the gym.

Teacher B feels very strongly that extracurricular activities are even more important in an area such as Haliburton where there are no other athletic facilities, so that teenagers have something to do outside school hours. Teacher B will also supervise some afternoon

gym time.

Teacher C broke down in tears when she said that she would not be coaching this year, but would be devoting herself to doing a good job with the new curriculum in Grades 9 and 10. (If you knew the names of all the teachers at the meeting moved to tears by the intensity of their feelings, you would be surprised!)

Teacher D finds coaching so rewarding that she would be more stressed and unhappy this year if she didn't coach, so she will be doing the best she can, perhaps with fewer practices and games than in other years. However, Teacher D will not be coaching next semester when she has a fourth class to teach.

Teacher E believes that he will have enough time to coach in the semester without the extra teaching load, although coaching will be much more complicated since there are not organized leagues this year. Teacher E will try to field a team in his sport.

Teacher F argues that, as professionals, we have to look at "the big picture": if we extend ourselves to provide the usual program of activities for students this year, the Tory government may increase our workload even further next year, and thereby further impair our ability to work effectively with our students. Teacher F will not be leading extra activities this year.

Teacher G is concerned that she will be exhausted during the section of the school year when she is teaching all day without a chance to prepare for her classes. She will compensate by spending extra time

See **Emotions** page 10

Boonieville by Charlie Teljeur



Emotions run high

from page 9

with her young family during the other part of the year. Teacher G will not be coaching.

Teacher H had chronic health problems last year partly due to exhaustion from the high number of hours he volunteered with students. Teacher H will be cutting down on his activities this year, and will not be doing anything extra during the part of the year he teaches the extra class. Teacher H will be providing a limited schedule of activities.

Teacher J believes that while we would like to stretch ourselves this year to provide a full program of activities for the students we see in front of us this year, the extra hours would quickly lead to burnout and a much reduced ability to meet students' needs in future years. Because Teacher J believes that the government will not budge on the extra workload, he will not be coaching this year.

Teacher K chose to become a high school teacher in order to coach young people. However, Teacher K will not compromise on a reduced program without playoffs and provincial championships. Teacher K will not be leading extra activities this year.

All of the teachers described above are composites of the many staff members who spoke passionately at the meeting. Each of us has thought carefully about his or her decision, and is acting out of integrity according to deep beliefs about what is best for students and education. All of us have agreed to respect others' decisions.

Students of HHSS, please respect whatever decisions your coaches and teachers have made. Participate as fully as you can in anything offered at the school. I fear that, under this government, things will get worse before they get better.

Parents and citizens of Haliburton County, we would certainly appreciate your support in these difficult times. I invite you to the school to see the effects of Bill 74 for yourselves. And we especially look forward to seeing you at the Awards Ceremony October 9th.

Jennifer Paton
Haliburton

Reeve candidate shows courage in face of unrelenting criticism

To the Editor:

How unfortunate and discouraging it must be for someone with the courage to throw their hat in the ring for the upcoming elections to be publicly castigated mercilessly by the press and ganged up on by current Stanhope council members.

Such is the case for Cheryl Mansell who has been subjected to unprecedented journalistic bias and who was slam-dunked at the Kushog Lake Cottagers Annual Meeting by, firstly, the president Norma Goodger who couldn't wait until November to cast her vote, and then by current council members who, one by one, took their shots at Cheryl while patting themselves and each other on the back.

Is this not a democracy that we live in? Should these people who care enough about our community not be applauded for coming forth and appreciated for wanting to give something back?

Let us set the record straight on a few points:

For starters, Norma Goodger and I met for the sole purpose of information sharing and possibly engaging in joint efforts in areas of mutual concern (lake association). Had either one of us been successful in our past dealings with finding resolutions to our concerns, we would not have had a need to meet in the first place! Cheryl Mansell, as a director of the Boshkung Lake Association, was present at this meeting only in that capacity. It is unfortunate that an overzealous young journalist who was in attendance at the meeting took it upon himself to put his own spin on the matter by saying "united we stand...divided we fall." How dramatic but totally inaccurate! As for the photograph, it doesn't appear to me that any-

one was tied to a post while the picture was being taken.

Next, Cheryl Mansell was invited to attend the Kushog meeting by Norma Goodger and Christine McCartney in order to facilitate a "meet the candidate" forum. Little did she know that this meeting would start off with a kick to the head by the president or that the current councillors would be the ones who would ask the majority of questions and put her through the ringer, to which I might add she held her own with grace and dignity.

In the September 5th issue of The Echo, the reporting of Mrs. Harrison's 'retirement' was misrepresented and my request of the reeve for clarification is misleading and inaccurate. What failed to be reported was that Mrs. Harrison contradicted herself when she stated early in the meeting that she was in the "process of retiring" and later in the meeting that she was "considering retiring". I was simply asking for clarification.

It also was suggested in The Echo, erroneously, that I was supporting Mansell's bid in my capacity as president of the Boshkung Lake Association. I do not speak for members of the lake association nor had I stated publicly who I support in the upcoming election. So it was misleading to your readers to identify my position in that context.

Cheryl Mansell is a very courageous women who has my admiration, respect...and now my vote. She has come from out of nowhere because she sees there is a need and because she believes, as I do, that she has something to offer.

Patricia Lowery, President, Boshkung Lake Property
Owners Association, Permanent Resident

Teachers still putting students first

To the Editor:

So now fall is here and The Echo, like the Toronto Star, The Sun, many other newspapers, and most of the television media, has also decided to engage in scare mongering and attempting to whip the public into a frenzy over the current educational crisis, presumably to catch people's attention and sell more papers.

Instead of a front page headline "teachers fulfill their promise to students and parents and return to classes in spite of no contract," you chose with your front page headline last week to arouse public concern about an impending strike. The Echo contained many pictures of the first day of school

in the elementary schools and not one in the high school.

Wake up and smell the coffee you media people - we're back in the classrooms in spite of the fact that we have no collective agreement. Yes, we're all teaching 20 to 30 more students, we're all teaching an additional course and our workload has increased dramatically. However, we have made our commitment to put the education of students first. The high school students of this county continue to get a top notch education...and, by the way, those of us who have some time left over will still be volunteering our time to help with the hundreds of extracurricular activities which make our school an even better place.

Walter Tose,
Haliburton

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S U M M E R

Nights



On Saturday night, Wigamog Inn hosted the annual fundraising gala for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. The 164 guests enjoyed a delicious five-course prime rib dinner, before dancing to a live band. One couple enjoying the festivities was Sheila and Don Popple, at right. More than \$30,000 (net) was raised thanks to the generosity of donors whose items were auctioned or raffled off. Below, auctioneer Art Ward drives up the price for a bunkie and outhouse. (Foundation manager Dale Walker holds up a photo of the prize.) At top, MPP Chris Hodgson thanks HHHS executive director Foster Loucks for a print of David Alexander Risk's painting, *Campfire Traditions*, which Hodgson was given in appreciation for his efforts on behalf of the capital expansion, while Foundation Chairman Gord Monk and HHHS chairman David Coulson look on.



Photos by Martha Perkins

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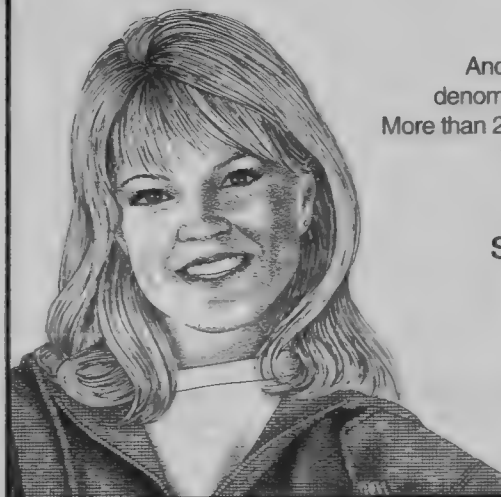
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Alpha

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Dysart wants to ensure public access; trailer park says beach isn't being properly taken care of

from page 1

beach," adds Mr. Reeves. "We own the piece of property that's there. They never believed that we owned it."

Fearrey says the beach has been used by the public as long as he can remember and will remain public.

"It's one of the few areas where the general public can actually go swimming since the public beach at Head Lake is closed. We'll never admit that we don't own the land because we do."

He says the Reeves are "never satisfied unless they get their total way and unless everybody is cut off except for their patrons."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Reeves say their residents put up with noise, garbage, illegally parked cars and general misuse of the beach.

"With all the things that are going wrong, we're the ones that have to deal with it. The tenants come to me when they have a problem."

She says the people who live and rent in the park spend thousands of dollars in the municipality and deserve a beach that is clean and safe.

"It's bad for business. They're responsible now that they've put up that sign", says Mrs. Reeves.

"We understand there's a business behind there and it's not a perfect place for a public beach but there is public access there and we're not about to cut public accesses off," says Fearrey. "So unless there can be an arrangement for an alternative that's suitable then there'll always be a place you can walk down there and go for a swim and walk back to your car."

The Reeves say one of the major problems with the park is the excess litter lying around since the municipality doesn't have a garbage can at the beach.

"Nobody bothers to clean it up and I'm the one that ends up

cleaning it," says Mr. Reeves who provides a garbage can on his section of the beach. "I'm not the garbage man. They could have a garbage can there. Why do we become custodians for the public?"

The Reeves also argue that the municipality needs to have a washroom for the public at the beach.

"How can they have no washrooms and call it a public beach? People go down there at 2:30, they leave at 7:30 - where are they going to the washroom? I've had them sneaking into the park to use mine," says Mr. Reeves.

He's concerned that if the situation continues, the beach will have to close down like Head Lake Park beach.

"I don't want that happening down here."

While they have not seen much lately, the Reeves say there has also been teen drinking at the beach in the past.

"I've been down on several occasions over the years and moved them off because of the noise. They've had parties down there, they've had bonfires we've had to clean up."

"I don't think it should be made public. I think with the amount of business I have here and the amount they're spending in town these people (park residents) should be allowed to use the beach and it should be kept clean."

"In fairness it is a tight area and there are problems with parking and noise," says Fearrey of the beach. "There is misuse at times by the general public that cause problems for the neighbours."

Fearrey says the municipality could look at putting regulations on the beach so there is no swimming after eight o'clock.

Residents of Silver Beach Camping Park are mainly concerned about the glass and metal that is littering the beach this year.

Jeri Brown, a 10-year summer

ERIK MARTENSON/ECHO



"The spite fence" separates the public beach on North Kashagawigamog Lake Road and the beach owned by Silver Beaches Trailer Park. The Park's owners, Barbara and Mervyn Reeves, at right, have fought to prove ownership of their portion of the beach and say Dysart should sell them the other half and provide a better swim area elsewhere.



resident of the park, says the situation has become terrible. Her five-year-old daughter was badly cut by glass while playing on the beach in July.

"For me it's a safety issue," says Brown. "Previously it was safe but now the kids have to wear shoes both in and out of the water. We've had isolated incidents in the past but this is the first year it is like this."

Brown says pieces of sharp metal, glass, nails, and bottle caps are some of the things she has been finding at the beach this summer. She is disappointed since she feels the beach has a nice sandbar and is safe for small children.

Brown and neighbour Liz Harvey showed The Echo a pile that was filled with glass collected over a week at the beach.

"It used to be a terrific beach and now it's not," says Harvey.

"A long-standing feud should not jeopardize our safety," added Brown.

Brown wrote a letter to the municipality in mid-July regarding the garbage on the beach and the parking situation which she feels is making the

crossing of the road risky for children at the park.

"It's just not safe for the children to cross the road between cars," adds Mrs. Reeves. "They're parking on both sides on that corner. When there's cars parked on both sides it's terrible. Somebody's going to get hurt. There was a no parking sign right in front of the beach but they took that down as well and put gravel down to give people room to park and it's still the same dangerous corner."

Fearrey says the no parking sign directly in front of the beach was taken down and a small amount of gravel was added to the road side since there is room for two cars to park safely.

"There's only room for two cars there. We're concerned about the safety of it, too. Council's due to have a look at the whole thing. I agree it's not a prime location for parking."

Fearrey notes that many users of the beach have made arrangements with The Moose to park at their facility and walk down to the beach. He also notes there are still no parking signs

on both sides of the road around the beach but he agrees that if any more than two cars are to park at the beach improvements will have to be made.

"That's something the public works crew would look at and make a recommendation."

But Fearrey doesn't feel parking is a large problem since there are only a few people using the beach.

"At one time it was a terrible problem because there were a lot of people using it and a lot of parties going on and we understood Mr. Reeves' concerns about that. But now I don't think there's major use."

Mrs. Reeves disagrees.

"It's used a lot by the public."

The Reeves and residents of the park allege the municipality have never enforced the no parking signs along the road.

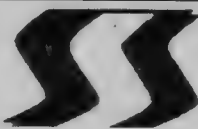
"Nobody's coming and moving cars. There's nothing behind them. They're just signs. There's probably not even a bylaw so anybody could be charged, says Mr. Reeves.

Fearrey says if the municipality creates an area where two or

See **Compromise** page 13

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H&R BLOCK

Compromise seems difficult to achieve

from page 12

three cars can park properly, the municipality will have to enforce it.

Haliburton resident Kevin Dunlop says he had a confrontation with Mr. Reeves in mid July shortly after the no parking sign was taken down at the beach.

"He shouldn't have brought his fight to me," Dunlop says. "If he's got a legitimate fight he should have brought it to someone else. I was just using the beach with my five-year-old daughter and wife."

Dunlop says he won't be intimidated from using the beach.

"I've made an absolute point of using that beach regularly. A few people have said to me I could go down the road and use another beach, and they're right, I could. But I'm also sensitive to the fact that we're losing a lot of public beaches and right of ways and fewer and fewer spots are available that have been in the past."

The Reeves deny that they are intimidating anyone from using the public section of the beach.

"If they are on our property then yes, we are asking them to leave. We have no control over the other side. While they're on the other side, nothing is said to anybody from here."

The Reeves say all the money that the municipality has spent on court cases could have been spent on a proper beach and point to a piece of land for sale just north of the beach.

"We've been trying to find a solution for years. Why can't they buy that? They could clean it up, they'd have their own washrooms, they would have the sewer connection for the washroom, even the



ERIK MARTENSSON/ECHO

Trailer park patrons Jeri Brown and Liz Harvey say glass left on the beach by visitors is making it dangerous for their young children.

proper parking. It has a nice little beach down there," says Mrs. Reeves.

"I do firmly believe they (the public) should have somewhere to go, but someplace that is safe, has parking and washrooms," says Mrs. Reeves.

As for solving the dispute Fearrey says, "we're always ready to sit down. We have to find a compromise solution."

Fearrey says the municipality would like to work with the owners to resolve the situation. "Hopefully someday we'll be able to do that."

Reeves says he'd gladly buy the property if the municipality wants to sell it.

Fearrey says the municipality is definitely not interested in selling their portion of the beach to the Reeves.

"It's not for sale."

As for the municipality buying the Reeves' portion of the beach it doesn't seem to be an option either as Mr. Reeves says he will sell the beach only if the municipality buys the whole trailer park.

Fearrey says it'd be nice to have more dialogue on the beach issue but the

Reeves are painting worst case scenarios in order to get the upper hand.

"They do have some valid points but they are not playing ball at all... That's not the way the world is. We all have to be a little bit tolerant sometimes. I live beside a snowmobile trail. Do I go out and yell at them every time they drive by me? No. Because I live beside a public right of way. And people have a right to use public property - not abuse it, but use it."

"If we could sit down and work out a reasonable arrangement for both the trailer park and the general public in some fashion that would work. But so far that hasn't been able to be achieved," Fearrey says.

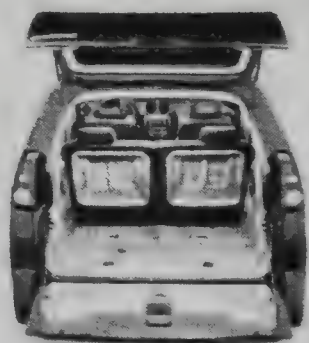
"It's a waste of time," says Mr. Reeves. "There is never any discussion. They just do it. They've had 21 years to do something."

Mr. Reeves says he's had nothing but difficulty in dealing with the municipality in the past.

"They just do what they want. Where do you go unless you've got a lot of money and time to go to court. Why am I the only one being harassed? I'm the only one getting it because I own sand. I believe the public should have a beach. They should put in a proper beach for those people. It's just more games that they're playing. It's frustrating."

Fearrey responds by saying he has a responsibility to keep Silver Beach open to the public.

"As long as there is a public interest in the beach, council has the obligation to protect those interests and the public's rights."



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SLAHM Transition Board

Shortlist made of possible new names

ERIK MARTENSSON

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from the Snowden, Lutterworth, Anson, Hindon and Minden Transition Board meeting on Sept. 7.

The municipality has shortlisted 11 of the 25 submissions in the name-the-municipality contest.

The proposed names that made the cut are Highland Hills, Highlands Gateway(s), Gateway(s), Minden, Gull River, Mindonworth, South Highlands, Trillium, Western Highlands, and the late entries Five Rivers and Minden Hills.

A system was set up at the meeting so that board members could vote for their favourite name. The General Government Committee, which is handling the contest, will review the results and come to the next Transition Board meeting with a recommendation for the municipality's new name.

Snowdon councillor Wendy Ladurantaye felt that in making its decision, the board consider that the name should be inclusive and representational of the whole municipality.

"It needs to mean something," she said.

She also said that ratepayers should be made aware that the townships of Snowden, Lutterworth and Anson,

Hindon and Minden will still exist, but the new name will identify the combined area.

The committee noted that some of the submissions had to be slightly altered since the municipality is not allowed to use the suffix 'et al' or the prefix 'amalgamated townships of'.

Budget Committee

The Transition Board has received notice that they will receive \$580,523.25 from the province in municipal restructuring funding. The existing municipalities will contribute \$229,507.75, bringing the total to \$810,031 to pay for amalgamation.

The Transition Board had requested \$1,496,395.00 from the province but some of their proposed expenditures such as a \$90,000 Flood Risk Study were not deemed eligible for funding.

Some of those expenditures that are not eligible for funding were still considered necessary by the budget committee and included as part of the recommendations as to where the combined funds should be allocated.

The committee made recommendations as follows:

Municipal office addition and renovation, \$400,000
Consolidation moving expenses, \$6,000
Labour adjustments, \$100,000

Interim staff, \$36,000

Human resources consultant, \$60,000

Information technology integration, \$19,220

Building department software, \$11,500

Telephone system for administration building, \$23,811

Trucks/equipment radios, \$6,000

Communications to the Public, \$2,000

Legal fees for bylaw consolidation, \$15,000

Legal and audit fees, \$14,500

New signage/stationary, \$16,000

Landfill environmental study, \$100,000

Since the funding received is not sufficient to cover all of the projects that board wanted to tackle, such as the preparation of an Official Plan and an economic development study, the committee is recommending that those projects be considered in the future for inclusion in the municipal operating and capital budgets.

The committee note that not all of the expenditures will be spent in 2000, but that some of the expenditure items, such as the office addition and renovation, and purchase of communications equipment for the roads department be initiated as soon as possible.

Roads

Resolution 82-2000, which was passed at the last Transition Board meeting, had to be rescinded since it caused dissension among the three current roads department staff. The resolution called for the integration of the operations of the three municipal roads departments with standard hours of work commencing at 6 am, with a 42-hour work week, effective November 1, to coincide with the commencement of winter operations.

The resolution had to be replaced by a resolution that will direct the harmonization of winter roads maintenance opera-

tions commencing on November 1, with a standard starting time of 6 am, with regular weekly hours of work presently at place at each municipality to apply.

The committee noted that one of the trucks used for snowplowing in Snowden Township is in need of major repairs. The committee feels that at a cost of between \$5,000 and \$10,000, the expenditure is not warranted given the age of the truck. Instead, Minden's spare one-ton truck will be put into the amalgamated municipality's fleet. The committee requested that the board approve the purchase of a portable sander unit that could be put on the truck and used for sanding in the village. The purchase of the unit will have to be passed by each separate township council as they will be sharing the cost.

The board did however approve the purchase of radios to the tune of \$5,000 so that all the departments' trucks will be able to communicate with each other.

General government

The General Government Committee provided research done towards determining the remuneration of the new council.

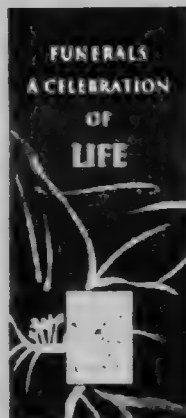
Ladurantaye noted that while the remuneration for council members needs to be fair considering the large workload expected for the next three years, it also has to be fiscally responsible since it is a public office.

While there was discussion on whether council members would be paid on a per meeting basis since there are up to as many as 10 extra meetings per month, it was felt that a flat rate with only extra payment for planning meetings is warranted.

Benefits, health and pension plans, as well as mileage will also have to be considered.

The committee hopes to have a recommendation for the next board meeting.

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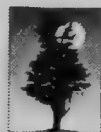
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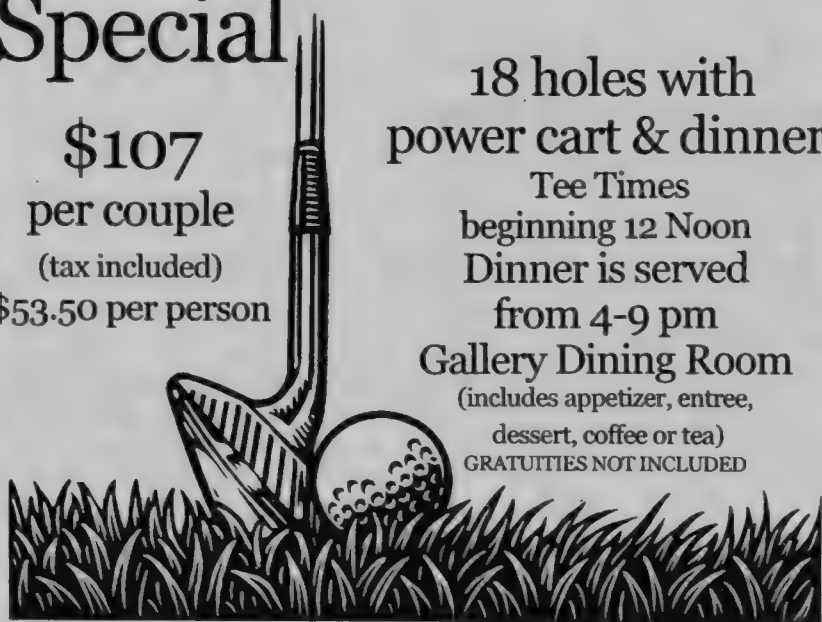
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Neighbours worry about erosion of hill to accommodate new IGA

from page 1

The proposed supermarket would be located behind the Bank of Montreal and Cordell's, and back onto Mountain Street. The land that the current IGA sits on would be used for parking. The Dawson Insurance building would be removed to provide for a driveway. The white house on Mountain Street, currently owned by Ray Gervais, will be torn down to make room for the store.

The bylaw was passed subject to a site plan agreement meeting with the developers of the project and a Haliburton couple whose property is adjacent to the proposed store.

A well-attended public meeting on the zoning by-law change was held last week at which no one voiced concerns with the project but the municipality did receive two letters from Peter Epps and Mary Hastings who own the Hillside Gallery on Mountain Street. The letters clearly outline their concerns with the proposed development which would sit right next to their lot line.

Their main worry is the possibility of erosion of the bank leading up to Mountain Street.

"I would be concerned as well," said Deputy Reeve Bill Davis, who says the developers of the project have to realise that they have to hold Mountain Street back.

The owners of the gallery, which is also their home, also want to make sure that the easement for their sewer is protected and have asked that 12 parking spots that sit on top of it are removed from the plans. How the new store's well will affect their groundwater was questioned as well. Along with noise concerns, Epps

and Hastings are also worried how the new building would impact the lighting situation on their property.

The couple had asked that a decision on rezoning be delayed until an acceptable site plan was finalised but council didn't feel it was fair or appropriate to delay the rezoning as Oshawa Foods had already begun with the approval process.

"They're here taking the first step," said Reeve Murray Fearrey.

He also noted that the Hillside Gallery is zoned a commercial zone and the complaints from Epps and Hastings were of a residential nature and not appropriate to delaying rezoning.

"I think he'd have legitimate concerns if it was residential," said Fearrey. "But these are not really zoning concerns."

The couple's concerns have, however, been forwarded to Oshawa Foods and the by-law was passed with the understanding that they will have an opportunity to meet with the developers in the next twenty days to discuss the site plans for the new supermarket.

"We have to assure him (Epps) that we'll work together to address his concerns," said Fearrey. "I think they're reasonable people and we can sit down with them."

Luis F. Correia, manager of the Lakeshore Group, who attended the meeting on behalf of Oshawa Holdings, said he will ask the company to contact the couple so that their concerns can be addressed and a finalised site plan can be expedited as soon as possible.

The couple has 20 days to appeal the rezoning decision.

Youth court diversion program is coming to Haliburton County; training session Sept. 22-24

by DANIELA PAGNUELO

For the past ten months, CAVA, the Committee Against Violence and Abuse, has been exploring the possibility of bringing a Community Justice Circle to Haliburton County. Much of the groundwork has been done and there has been overwhelming support from our local judicial system and the local OPP Detachment. In fact, it seems as though the courts can't wait until this alternative for young offenders is available as they referred three cases before we were even up and running!

The next step in bringing a Community Justice Circle to Haliburton County is to train community members interested in facilitating Community Justice Circles. CAVA, in partnership with the OPP, is offering a three-day intensive training session for community members who are interested in becoming a Community Justice Circle Facilitator.

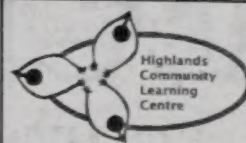
This training is necessary to facilitate Justice Circles,

but those who are interested in Alternative Justice for other reasons are also welcome. The training will be held September 22 - 24, from 9 - 5 pm, at the Stanhope Firefighters Community Hall. There is no cost for this training.

Typically, a facilitator will be asked to mediate a Justice Circle anywhere from once to a few times per year, depending on the number of cases referred. The average circle lasts approximately three hours.

Topics and activities covered at the training will include: Origins of Community Justice Circles, Community Justice Philosophy, Benefits of Justice Circles, Reintegrating Offenders and Victims Into the Community, Demonstrations and Role Plays, How to Prepare for a Circle, Factors Influencing Implementation, What Resources do we Need to Carry Out Circle Recommendations?

If you have any questions, would like more information or would like to register for this training, please call Family Services of Haliburton County at 457-5345.



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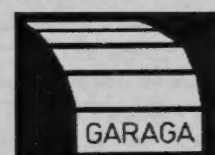
and register with the \$15 student fee. Classes run Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

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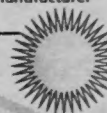


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Fish derby brings smiles to all at Lake Wilbermere

August 26 was the date of the Lake Wilbermere Property Owners Annual Fish Derby and Barbecue. Despite the rain, 18 children and adults took part in the fishing derby. The catch was small but exciting.

The official weigh-in took place at the Wests' dock. The children waited anxiously to see if they would be a winner.

At 4:30 families were converging at the Strains' cottage property for a fun time. A total of 52 people came to enjoy the corn, wieners and pop. The children played while the parents got to know the new members.

Around 6:30 pm the award presentation took place. Congratulations to the following winners of the fishing derby.

Children: Lindsay Popit - largest number of fish; Tommie Warren - largest rock bass; Claren McCardle - largest perch; Sharon Binstead - largest fish; Paige McCardle and Eric Popit - smallest fish.

Adults: Barbara Kroontje - largest rock bass; Chris Courneya - largest perch; Pam O'let - smallest fish; Tom LeRoy - most unusual fish; Dave Strain - best lure; Chris Courneya and Pam O'let - largest number of fish; Chris Courneya - largest fish. For the remaining prizes numbers were drawn. Everyone was a winner and went home happy, looking forward to next year's annual event.



MARTHA PERKINS/Echo

Challenging water

TheMinden Wild Water Preserve was a beautiful place to be on the weekend, and a number of keen canoeists took advantage of the opportunity to practise their skills in the open canoe category. This pair is turning to negotiate an upstream gate.

Volunteers enjoy golf tourney at PineStone

Submitted

A nine-hole golf tournament sponsored by PineStone Golf and Conference Resort for volunteers working in the Haliburton, Minden, Stanhope, Wilberforce and Gooderham areas was held on Labour Day, September 4.. More than 100 volunteers enjoyed the outing, the barbecue that fol-

lowed and the array of prizes that were awarded.

Byron Bain and Fern Timbers were the winners of the men's and women's closest to the pin prizes. Other winners included the foursomes made up of Ruby and Ted Wilkes and Marilyn and Jim Borrows; Jim Derry, Jack Campbell, Mark Schell, and Larry Tupling; Miles Maughan, Deeno

Pearsell, Ed Muenzel and Chuck Phillips.

PineStone Resort will be sponsoring this volunteers tournament and barbecue on an ongoing annual basis and any and all persons volunteering their time and services to the well-being of the community are invited to watch for the announcement next year or to inquire at PineStone Resort after June 30, 2001.

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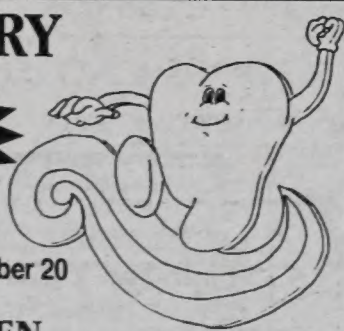
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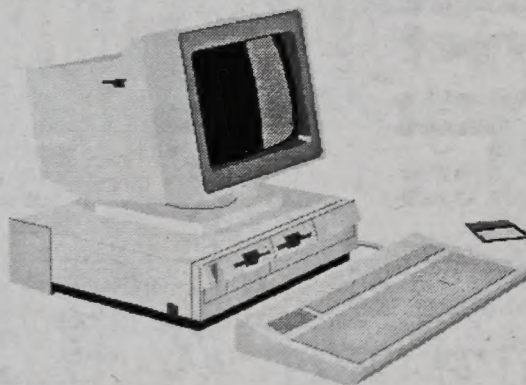
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Area runners place high in ultra marathon

In 19 hours, 10 minutes and 39 seconds, Wesley Finnemore was able to run 100 miles along the trails of Haliburton Forest, earning him the top spot in the annual Labour Day weekend ultra race.

It was all in day's work for the Boston man.

The 50-mile race was won by Jay Mayatt of London, Ontario with a time of 7:52:54. Competitors from the area who placed in the race were David McConkey of Peterborough, third, 8:43:45; Jim Martin of Lindsay, 8:58:12; and Suzanne Farla of Woodville, 15th, 10:46:11.

Those who wanted to challenge themselves but not in ultra fashion took part in the 50 kilometre race. It was won by John Culhane of Toronto with a time of 3:59:33. The second place was won by a woman, Cori Hutton of Peterborough, who was 20 minutes behind with a time of 5:20:31.

Other area competitors include Paul Appleman of Port Hope, with a personal best distance and time of 5:02:03 for a seventh place finish; David Cannons of Peterborough, 14th, with a personal best time of 5:22:03; David Bishop of Haliburton, 21st, 6:11:29; and George Wood of Peterborough, 34th, 7:44:54.

Playground set at hit a Stuart Baker School

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

If you ever needed proof of why playground equipment is such a vital component of early school life, just drop by Stuart Baker School during recess.

The brightly-coloured jumble of slides, climbing areas and tunnels is literally swarming with children.

"They have loved it," says Principal Debbie Wales of the brand new playground equipment. "It's just like a magnet."

Although the K to 3 school in Haliburton has been open for more than a year, the first day of school last week marked the first time children have had such a place to play. With the help of volunteers and professional installers, the set was installed just before school started for a new year.

When the new school was being built, the plan had been to move the old playground set from Victoria Street School. But this would have jeopardized the playground equipment's safety so new equipment was needed.

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board will match funds raised by the school, and luckily, VSS's school council had been saving money for the past few years, a tradition carried on after the move to Stuart Baker. Through the sale of cookbooks, bake sales and garage sales and a fun hockey game last winter, the parents were able to raise half of the equipment's \$22,000 cost. (The equipment costs \$13,000 and the rest is for installation.)

Still, without the last minute help of a school parent and pupil, the school wouldn't have had all the money to pay for it.

Harry Hutchings, whose children Curtis and Shay-Lynn attend Stuart Baker, volunteered his time and backhoe to prepare the area beside the school for the installation, which was done by a professional crew.

"That saved us a ton of money," says Mrs. Wales, adding the playground equipment couldn't have been installed at this time were it not for his help. Then, Tamara Poropat came up to Mrs. Wales and told the principal she'd like to donate the proceeds of her toy/garage sale this summer. The envelope contained \$100 - just the amount needed to cover a shortfall in the amount budgeted for sand.



Students at Stuart Baker Elementary School in Haliburton are enjoying the bright new playground equipment installed recently with the help of volunteers, who raised funds and donated labour to make the purchase possible

It is the school's hope to gradually replace the rest of the equipment that is shared between Stuart Baker and J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School, which also shares the equipment. It may take a few years, but the laughter emanating from the new equipment let's it be known it will be well worth it.

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